

Plan of organization of the
Conservative-Democratic
Party of Florida ... 1880

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PLAN OF
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
Conservative
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF FLORIDA
FOR THE CAMPAIGN OF
1880.

HEADQUARTERS
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, }
TALLAHASSEE, August 3, 1880.

*To the County Executive Committees of
the Conservative-Democratic Party of
Florida:*

It is scarcely necessary for us to suggest to you the paramount importance to our people of a successful issue to the political canvass on which we have now entered. To ensure success, we must have thorough, systematic and efficient organization. With this, and an earnest determination on the part of our people to succeed, there can be no doubt as to the result. Organize without delay. Let every house and settlement in your county be visited. See that every man who is in sympathy with us is registered, and let not one vote be lost to our candidates in November next. See to it that fraudulent registration is checked, and that none be allowed to vote who are not duly qualified voters. It is not

whether we *can*, but whether we *will* restore our National Government to honest hands, and retain control of our State Government. Rouse your people. The merchant can well afford to leave his merchandise upon the shelf, and the farmer his ploughshare idle in the field, in order to make one earnest, manly, united effort to elect pure and honest men to administer our National and State Governments.

We invite you to communicate with us freely on all matters relating to the canvass, or of interest to the party; such information or aid as this Committee can command will be at all times cheerfully given. We hand you a simple but effective plan of organization, which is respectfully commended to your attention.

S. PASCO,

Chairman State Executive Com.

E. C. LOVE,

Ch'm. Dist. Ex. Com. 1st Con. Dist.

A. ST. CLAIR-ABRAMS,

Ch'm. Dist. Ex. Com. 2d Con. Dist.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

OF THE CONSERVATIVE-DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF FLORIDA FOR THE CAMPAIGN OF 1880.

1st. The County Executive Committees are the centres of organization and influence; upon them devolves the labor and responsibility of putting the details of this system into operation. If no such committee exists there should be one appointed at the first County Convention or Mass-

Meeting held in the county. The State Committee will appoint a temporary committee to act *ad interim* whenever requested, provided the circumstances of the case render such a course advisable.

2d. As soon as practicable after its appointment, the County Committee should complete its own organization by selecting a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and report the organization, with the Post-office address of each member to Robert Gamble, Secretary of State Executive Committee at Tallahassee.

3d. During the canvass the Committee should have some place designated as their headquarters, at which they should meet on stated days—say every two weeks or oftener, to take measures for the interests of the party.

4th. There should be a record kept by the Secretary for reference of all orders and acts of the committee. The Treasurer should keep an account of all sums received and disbursed by him.

5th. There should be a Sub-Committee appointed for each Precinct District in the County, to consist of not less than three, nor more than five electors, resident in the District, selected for their zeal, discretion and influence, one of whom should be named as Chairman.

6th. It should be the duty of the Precinct Committee to see that every Democratic voter in their district is duly registered, and that no one who will cast a Democratic vote is absent from the polls on the day of election.

7th. In order that no vote be lost to our candidates, and no Radical vote fraud-

ulently polled, an accurate census should be taken of the voters in each district. This can be effected with but little effort, if the Precinct Committees will divide their districts into convenient "neighborhoods," and assign each of these to some one person, whose duty it shall be to procure such information, either by visiting each settlement or family, or from other reliable sources as will enable them to prepare an accurate list of all persons within the limits assigned them, who are duly qualified voters, noting carefully the name, residence, color and politics of each, &c., in columns as indicated in the form attached hereto. If any doubt exists as to the qualification of a registered man it should be carefully noted on the list.

Canvass Books will be forwarded for the use of every Election District.

Name	P.O. Address	Politics	Whether registered.	Race	Age	Length of Residence in	Whether Convicted of Crime.
		Dem.	Yes.	White.		State.	
		Repub.	No.	Colored.		County.	
		Doubtful.				Offence.	
						Date.	
						Court.	
						Remarks.	

8th. The persons entrusted with the duty of taking this census should endeavor to register *every man* who will vote our ticket, and if any who are in political sympathy with us decline to register, they should be at once reported to the Precinct Committee in order that all possible influence may be brought to bear to induce them to discharge their duty in this respect.

[NOTE.—It will be borne in mind that

the registration books are closed by law six days before the day of election.]

9th. These lists should be completed by the 1st October, or earlier if practicable, and a copy each sent to the County, District and State Committees, and one copy retained by the Precinct Committee. Upon it all causes of challenge should be noted, to be used at the polls on the day of election by the party challenger.

10th. The Precinct Committees will apportion among its own members, and such other active and discreet persons as are willing to aid them, the Democratic voters in their districts, assigning ten or more to each. These persons will be designated and known as leaders or captains of tens, and upon them will devolve the duty of seeing that every man on their lists who will deposit the right ballot is registered and brought to the polls without possibility of failure.

11th. The County Committee should carefully examine the Registration Lists, prepare a roll of such voters as have been stricken off the list since the last election, and forward copies thereof to each of the Precinct Committees in order that such Democratic voters as have been improperly stricken off may be re-registered during the period prescribed by law.

12th. They should also examine the Court Records and prepare a list of such persons as are disqualified by reason of conviction for "felony, bribery, perjury, larceny, or other infamous crime," including conviction of "larceny" by Justices of the Peace, to which should be added

all persons whose names appear upon the Registration Lists improperly, either from death, removal or other cause of disqualification. Full lists of such disqualified persons should be forwarded *without delay* to the Secretary of the State Executive Committee. And any additions by subsequent convictions, forwarded up to the day of election.

13th. Should any person whose name appears on this "disqualified" list have removed to another county, his name should be at once communicated to the Secretary of the State Committee, and also to the Chairman of the Committee of the county to which he has removed, with the date of his removal and grounds of his disqualification, in order that his vote may be challenged at the polls.

14th. All such disqualified persons, with the specific ground of disqualification, should be carefully noted on the "list of voters," to be placed in the hands of the challengers at every precinct on the day of election.

15th. Preparatory to the election, there should be challengers appointed by the County Committee for each precinct—persons thoroughly acquainted with the voters throughout the county, and more particularly at the polls, where they are to act. Upon these challengers, with the aid of the lists furnished them by the County Committee, and such other information as they may obtain, will devolve the duty of seeing that no illegal vote is polled, and that we are not deprived by accident or fraud of any ballot which would be cast for our ticket.

16th. Contributions to defray the expenses of the canvass should be solicited through the Precinct Committees, and all funds thus raised should be placed in the hands of the Treasurer to be paid out on the order of the Chairman of the County Committee.

17th. The formation of Clubs in each precinct will arouse a more general interest, and be found an admirable auxiliary to the work. Let your Precinct Committee be the Executive Committee of your Club. Call it the "Hancock and Bloxham," "Hancock and English," "Bloxham and Bethel," or some other suitable name, adding, perhaps, some local or particular designation.

18th. The State Committee has prepared convenient forms for the organization of clubs, which will be sent to the County Committees, and copies can be obtained on application to the Headquarters of the State and District Committees.

19th. Admit to these Clubs young men under age; those who are too young to vote make splendid working material, and they will be found useful and efficient in looking up the non-registered during the campaign; in writing up lists of voters and other necessary work.

20th. Every effort should be made to reduce the number of non-registered. If any are without horses and live remote from the place of registration, help them to get there; fix up a registration team and let it make trips enough to carry every voter who is with us in sentiment, and means to vote for our candidate. Get the Clerk or Deputy to visit remote parts

of the county to register voters. This matter of registration is the first and great work of the party; when it is completed, and during its progress, all proper efforts should be made to gain strength from the other side. For this purpose, proclaim the excellence of our platform, the high character of our candidates, and the advantages and blessings that will follow a Democratic triumph both in the State and country at large.

21st. Let every exertion be made to keep up a lively interest in the Club meetings; keep the members at work; let each one feel that he is useful; have speeches and essays delivered at every meeting by members and visitors; send delegations to visit other clubs; let them report what they saw and heard; invite similar visits; make these gatherings sociable and fraternal; carry baskets along and get the ladies interested.

22. Have an aggressive, good natured, enthusiastic campaign; have torches and transparencies, flags and banners, speech-making and music, at these gatherings, and never lose sight of the main objects; register the voters, make converts to our cause.

[NOTE.—Full instructions will in due time be prepared and sent to the County Committees on all points connected with the appointment of inspectors, organization of the polls, challengers, and everything pertaining to the conduct of the election and the proper counting and return of the votes.]

